Diminishing forest cover

1308. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the forest cover in the country has been diminishing;

(b) whether any survey/study has been carried out in the recent past in this regard;

(c) if so, the details of forest cover existed, State-wise, during the 1950's and as at present alongwith corresponding details of the size of Inhabitants in these forests;

(d) the details of inhabitants in forest lands found to be substantially depended upon the respective forest for their subsistence,State-wise; and

(e) the steps envisaged, if any, to arrest the diminishing trend of forest as well as to protect the subsistence of the tribal inhabitants therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. As per the State of Forest Report, 2003 published by Forest Survey of India, forest cover in the country is 678,333 sq. km which is an increase of 2795 sq. km over the previous assessment of 2001 (SFR, 2001).

(b) to (d) Assessment of forest cover is being done by Forest Survey of India since 1987 on a two-year cycle. The latest one is State of Forest Report, 2003. The Forest cover assessed by Forest Survey of India since 1987 is given in the Statement *(See* below). The report does not provide any information on the number of inhabitants in forest lands, which are maintained by the States.

(e) To increase the forest cover and to protect the subsistence of the tribal inhabitants, the following action have been taken:

(i) In order to regenerate degraded forest and land adjoining forest areas with the involvement of local people, this Ministry is implementing National Afforestation Programme (NAP) through a two-tier decentralized implementation mechanism-Forest Development Agency (FDA) at Territorial/Wild life Division level

and Joint Foerst Management Committees (JFMCs) at village level during the 10th Five Year Plan.

(ii) Under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for protection of rights of forest dwellers, the Central Government issued detailed guidelines in September, 1990 for ascertaining and granting of such forest rights, *viz.* settlement of disputed claims on forest land, regularization of pattas, leases, etc., regularization of pre 1980 encroachment, and coversion of forest villages into revenue villages.

Statement

Details of forest cover assessed by forest Survey of India.

State/UT	Forest Cover								
	1987	1989	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andhra Pradesh	49,573	47,290	47,290	47,256	47,112	13,290	44,229	44,637	44,419
Arunachal Pradesh	64,132	69,002	68,757	68,661	68,621	68,602	68,847	68,045	68,019
Assam	25,160	24,832	24,751	24,508	24,061	23,824	23,688	27,714	27,826
Bihar	28,482	26,668	26,668	26,587	26,651	4,832	4,830	5,720	5,558
Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	—	21,692	21,644	22,637	22,716
Delhi	15	22	22	22	26	26	88	111	170
Goa	1,240	1,255	1,255	1,250	1,250	1,252	1,251	2,095	2,156
Gujarat	11,991	11,921	11,907	12,044	12,320	12,578	12,965	15,152	14,946
Haryana	513	513	513	513	603	604	964	1,754	1,517
Himachal Pradesh	12,480	12,480	12,480	12,502	12,501	12,521	13,082	14,360	14,353
Jammu & Kashmir	20,905	20,449	20,449	20,443	20,433	20,440	20,441	21,237	21,267
Karnataka	32,268	32,104	32,199	32,343	32,382	32,403	32,467	36,991	36,449
Kerala	10,292.	10,292	10,292	10,336	10,336	10,334	10,323	15,560	15,577
Madhya Pradesh	130,099	135,541	135,541	135,396	135,164	74,760	75,137	77,265	76,129
Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—	—	56,435	56,693	56,448	55,998
Maharashtra	45,616	44,044	44,044	43,859	43,843	46,143	46,672	47,482	46,865
Manipur	17,475	17,685	17,685	17,621	17,558	17,418	17,384	16,926	17,219
Meghalaya	16,466	15,645	15,875	15,769	15,714	15,657	15,633	15,584	16,839
Mizoram	19,084	18,170	18,853	18,697	18,576	18,775	18,338	17,494	18,430
Nagaland	14,394	14,399	14,321	14,348	14,291	14,221	14,164	13,345	13,609

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Orissa	53,253	47,227	47,205	47,145	47,107	46,941	47,033	48,838	48,366
Punjab	943	1,338	1,343	1,343	1,342	1,387	1,412	2,432	1,580
Rajasthan	12,758	12,884	12,889	13,099	13,280	13,353	13,871	16,367	15,826
Sikkim	2,756	3,041	3,041	3,119	3,127	3,129	3,118	3,193	3,262
Tamil Nadu	17,472	16,992	16,992	17,005	17,045	17,064	17,078	21,482	22,643
Tripura	5,953	5,535	5,535	5,538	5,538	5,546	5,745	7,065	8,093
Uttar Pradesh	31,226	33,627	33,609	33,961	33,986	10,751	10,756	13,746	14,118
Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—	—	23,243	23,260	23,938	24,465
West Bengal	8,432	8,015	8,015	8,186	8,276	8,349	8,362	10,693	12,343
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	7,601	7,622	7,622	7,624	7,615	7,613	7.606	6,930	6,964
Chandigarh	2	5	5	5	7	7	7	9	15
Dadar & Nagar Haveli	238	206	206	206	204	204	202	219	225
Daman &	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	8.34
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	23
Pondichery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	40
GRAND TOTAL	640,819	638,804	639,364	639,386	638,879	633,397	637,293	675,538	678,333
Percent (%)	19.49	19.43	19.45	19.45	19.43	19.27	19,39	20.55	20.64

Tiger population

1309. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) how far the Tiger population and poaching figures in the latest annual report of his Ministry in different National Parks, sanctuaries and tiger reserves have been found correct and sustainable, as a result of the recent counting and census carried out in each Parks, reserve or sanctuary, espeacially Sariska and Ranthambhore;

(b) the comparative population and poaching figures between 1999 and 2003 and the latest counting figures in each Reserve; and

(c) the reasons for disparities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The country level estimation of tigers is done once in four years, which is collated by the Government of India. States carry out tiger estimation in their protected